DETAILED ACTION

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/15/08

has been entered.

The pending claims are 63, 66-73, and 76-85.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Christopher K. Gagne (Reg. No. 36,142).

4.   The application has been amended as follows:

Rewrite claim 63 as follows:

"63. A network storage system comprising:

a storage port for accessing at a client, a virtual file system and a plurality of

storage centers comprising a plurality of storage media, the storage port, mounted at

the client, translates a client local file system request to a network storage file system request including a file identifier identifying a file in a single file system;

the virtual file system ("VFS") storing file system information for the single file system, wherein the client of the network storage system accesses the VFS via the storage port over a network to manage a plurality of files of the single file system, and wherein the client receives a generated storage resource locator ("SRL") from the VFS in response to the network storage file system request to access the file in the single file system;

the plurality of storage centers, located in geographically disparate locations from each other, the client and the VFS, and coupled to the client through a wide area, public access network, each of the storage centers storing a plurality of files for the single file system, wherein the client of the network storage system transmits the received SRL directly to one of the storage centers over the wide area, public access network, and downloads the file over the wide area, public access network, and wherein the SRL includes a public access network address for a storage center to access one of the storage centers over the wide area, public access network and a unique identifier associated with contents of the file to uniquely identify the file stored at the one of the storage centers; and

at least one additional storage port for accessing the virtual file system and the storage centers in an event of a failover condition of the storage port.";

Rewrite claim 73 as follows:

"73. A method for retrieving files in a network storage system, the method comprising:

storing file system information in a virtual file system ("VFS") for a single file system;

accessing, at a client, the virtual file system and a plurality of storage centers using a storage port, the storage port, mounted at the client, translates a client local file system request to a network storage file system request including a file identifier identifying a file in the single file system;

providing at least one additional storage port for accessing the virtual file system and the storage centers in an event of a failover condition of the storage port;

receiving the network storage file system request from the client at the VFS to access the file in the network storage system;

generating at the VFS, in response to the network storage file system request from the client, a storage resource locator ("SRL");

storing a plurality of files for the single file system in the plurality of storage centers comprising a plurality of storage media, the storage centers located in geographically disparate locations from each other, the client and the VFS;

coupling the storage centers to the client through a wide area, public access network;

transmitting, from the client directly to one of the storage centers, over a wide area, public access network, the SRL received from the VFS, wherein the SRL

comprises a public access network address for a storage center to access the one of

the storage centers over the wide area, public access network and comprises a unique

file identifier associated with contents of the file to uniquely identify the file stored at the

one of the storage centers; and

downloading, over the wide area, public access network, the file identified by the

SRL from the storage center identified to the client."; and

Rewrite claim 83 as follows:

"83. A network storage system comprising:

a storage port for accessing at a client, a virtual file system and a storage center

comprising a plurality of storage media, the storage port, mounted at the client,

translates a client local file system request to a network storage file system request

including a file identifier identifying a file in a single file system;

the virtual file system ("VFS") storing file system information for the single file

system, wherein the client of the network storage system accesses the VFS via the

storage port over a network to manage a plurality of files of the single file system, and

wherein the client receives a generated storage resource locator ("SRL") from the VFS

in response to the network storage file system request to access the file in the single file

system;

the storage center, located in geographically disparate locations from the client

and the VFS, and coupled to the client through a wide area, public access network, the

storage center storing a plurality of files for the single file system, wherein the client of the network storage system transmits the received SRL directly to the storage center over the wide area, public access network, and downloads the file over the wide area, public access network, and wherein the SRL includes a public access network address for the storage center to access the storage center over the wide area, public access network and a unique identifier associated with contents of the file to uniquely identify the file stored at the storage center; and

at least one additional storage port for accessing the virtual file system and the storage center in an event of a failover condition of the storage port.".

Allowable Subject Matter

5.   Claims 63, 66-73, and 76-85 are allowed.

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOON H. HWANG whose telephone number is (571)272-4036. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M~F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Joon Hwang
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

6/3/08
/Joon H. Hwang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2166